

NINETY (90) DAY UPDATE OF
THE EL PASO CITY COUNTY
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL
DISTRICT

DR. ROBERT GALVAN
INTERIM DIRECTOR

BOARD OF HEALTH

- RECOMMENDING THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD
- PROVIDING FOR A SEVEN (7) MEMBER BOARD WITH BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH
- MEMBERS TO BE SELECTED BY THE CITY AND COUNTY FROM NOMINATIONS PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT
- PROVIDING FOR NEW BY-LAWS AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

HEALTH AUTHORITY

- RESOLUTIONS PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY AND CITY FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE HEALTH AUTHORITY – DR. HECTOR OCARANZA, AND THE ALTERNATE HEALTH AUTHORITY – DR. TONY ISLAS

ANIMAL SERVICES

- CHANGED THE PHONE SYSTEM
- RECRUITING FOR A NEW DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL SERVICES
- RECRUITING FOR A FULL TIME VETERINARIAN
- RECRUITING FOR TWO FULL TIME DEPUTY SHERIFFS TO HANDLE ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES

ANIMAL SERVICES (CONTINUED)

- WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE ANIMAL SERVICES' HOURS OF OPERATION WITH THE DESIRE TO EXPAND THESE SERVICES TO 7 DAYS A WEEK FROM 6:00 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT.
- WE ARE REVIEWING REVENUE STREAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE OUR DELIVERY OF SERVICES.
- WE HAVE INSTITUTED THE BREEDERS PERMIT AND ARE ENFORCING THIS PROVISION OF TITLE 7.

ANIMAL SERVICES (CONTINUED)

- WE ARE EVALUATING A PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH "FROM THE HEART", AN AGENCY THAT WILL PROVIDE A FULL TIME ADOPTION COORDINATOR SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THE ADOPTION PROGRAM WITHIN OUR FACILITY.
- THE ENTIRE PHILOSOPHY OF THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS IN ANIMAL SERVICES IS BEING EVALUATED. THE GOAL IS TO BRING ANIMAL SERVICES TO A LEVEL WHERE IT CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATES BEST PRACTICES IN ALL ASPECTS OF ITS OPERATIONS.

HEALTH DISTRICT

- A BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL MANAGER AND A SR. ACCOUNTANT HAVE JOINED OUR ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AND WILL ASSIST US IN ASSESSING OUR FINANCIAL POSTURE AND BUDGET PREPARATION.
- AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HAS JOINED OUR TEAM AND WILL ASSIST US IN FORMULATING THE DISTRICT'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT DEVELOPMENT. HE WILL ALSO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND RE-DEVELOPMENT.

HEALTH DISTRICT

- WE WILL BE REVIEWING THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND WILL BE REORGANIZING TO PROVIDE GREATER EFFICIENCIES AND EFFECTIVENESS.
- WE ARE CURRENTLY ASSESSING ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND WILL DETERMINE IF THE INDIVIDUALS OCCUPYING THESE POSITIONS ARE QUALIFIED TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES.
- WE ARE CURRENTLY EVALUATING ALL POSITIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE NECESSARY AND, IF NOT, THEY WILL BE ELIMINATED.
- WE WILL BE STUDYING "BEST PRACTICES" IN OTHER HIGH-ACHIEVING HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND HEALTH DISTRICTS IN AN EFFORT TO INCORPORATE THOSE ELEMENTS THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL AND BEYOND.

HEALTH DISTRICT GRANTS

- WE RECENTLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM EPA ON THE AWARD OF THE 2006 AIR QUALITY GRANT. WE ANTICIPATE THE 2007 AWARD WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
- WE RECENTLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM DSHS OF OUR 2007 AWARD OF OUR ASBESTOS GRANT.

HEALTH DISTRICT GRANTS

- WE RECENTLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT THE TEXAS CHILD BLOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT WILL NOT BE FUNDED AND WILL END AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE BUDGET YEAR FOR MOST HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. ALL RESOURCES FOR THIS PROGRAM HAVE BEEN RE-DEPLOYED TO THREE CITIES – DALLAS, HOUSTON AND SAN ANTONIO.

HEALTH DISTRICT GRANTS

- WE RECENTLY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM DSHS THAT OUR TB GRANT WILL BE REDUCED BY 5% FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. THE TB GRANT HAS BEEN REDUCED BY 30% OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS RESULTING IN A REDUCTION OF STAFF IN THIS PROGRAM BY 25%. ALL BORDER HEALTH DIRECTORS WILL BE MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP AT DSHS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18TH TO DISCUSS THIS REDUCTION AND REQUEST THE RE-INSTATEMENT TO OUR CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL.
- WITHIN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, WE WILL BECOME MORE AGGRESIVELY INVOLVED IN SEEKING GRANT FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT.

HEALTH DISTRICT POLICIES

- OUR DISTRICT HAS ADOPTED POLICIES RELATING TO A DRUG FREE ENVIRONMENT AND WILL INSTITUTE SIMILAR POLICIES THAT MIRROR THE CURRENT CITY POLICIES.
- THE DISTRICT IS CURRENTLY EVALUATING ALL EXISTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND WILL PRESENT ANY CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

HEALTH DISTRICT FACILITIES

- THE DISTRICT STAFF IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH CITY ENGINEERING STAFF TO ADDRESS DEFICIENCIES AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER.
- THE NEW RAWLINS DENTAL CLINIC WILL INCREASE THE FLOOR SPACE FROM 1000 SQUARE FEET TO 3000 SQUARE FEET AND WE ANTICIPATE OCCUPANCY OF THE NEW CLINIC BY SEPTEMBER 2007. THIS ADDED SPACE WILL ALLOW US TO SERVE AN ADDITIONAL 4,200 PATIENTS PER YEAR.

HEALTH DISTRICT FACILITIES

- THE TILLMAN FACILITY IS OLD AND IN NEED OF TREMENDOUS REPAIR. THE BUILDING WAS OCCUPIED IN 1968 AND LACKS THAT APPROPRIATE HVAC. ANY EXPANSION OR REMODELING IS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS.

HEALTH DISTRICT PRIORITIES

- FILL THE LEADERSHIP VOID
 - PARTNER WITH US MEXICO BORDER COUNCIL
 - PARTNER WITH THE EP VETERINARIAN MEDICAL ASSOC.
 - PARTNER WITH LOCAL HEALTH COMMUNITY – TEXAS TECH, UTHSPH, UT EL PASO, DSHS
 - TML AFFILIATE – TAMHO EXECUTIVE BOARD – MARCH AND JUNE
 - TPHA REGIONAL CONFERENCE – SEPT. 2007
- RE-CONSTITUTE THE BOARD OF HEALTH
- ESTABLISH AGREED-UPON FUNDING FORMULA FROM THE CITY AND COUNTY
- MAXIMIZE REVENUES FROM ON-GOING PROGRAMS (TO A REASONABLE LEVEL)
- MAXIMIZE GRANTS
- MAKE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AS NECESSARY

HEALTH DISTRICT PRIORITIES

- TRACK PROGRESS (OR LACK THEREOF) THROUGH PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
- INCORPORATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT
 - CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING
 - TECHNICAL TRAINING
 - INCORPORATE AN ORGANIZATIONAL MINDSET THAT EMBRACES THE CONCEPT OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

HEALTH DISTRICT PRIORITIES

- INITIATING STEPS TO ESTABLISH A CITIZEN-DRIVEN STRATEGIC PLAN (TO INCLUDE A COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT)
- INITIATE STEPS TO INCORPORATE THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS INTO THE DISTRICT
- DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY

LONG TERM FINANCING

- REACH A REASONABLE AND ACCEPTABLE FUNDING FORMULA THAT WOULD MAINTAIN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE DISTRICT AND PROVIDE THE DISTRICT WITH INCENTIVES FOR INTELLIGENT BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE.
- FUNDING LEVELS SHOULD BE AT AN ADEQUATE LEVEL SO THAT THE DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE TO COME BACK TO THE FUNDING AGENCIES FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING.
- ALLOW REVENUES GENERATED BY THE DISTRICT TO REMAIN WITH THE DISTRICT AS RESERVES FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION, VEHICLE REPLACEMENT, CAPITAL PROJECTS, ETC.

HEALTH DISTRICT OBSERVATIONS – WHY ARE WE HERE AND WHAT DO WE DO

- PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF A COMMUNITY THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT TARGET THE ENTIRE POPULATION.
- THE FOCUS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS ONE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL INVOLVEMENT.
- “HEALTH CARE IS VITAL TO ALL OF US SOME OF THE TIME BUT PUBLIC HEALTH IS VITAL TO ALL OF US ALL OF THE TIME.” C.E. KOOP

QUESTIONS?